

Application No. 09/557,196
Amendment "D" dated February 24, 2005
Reply to Office Action mailed January 21, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) In a home entertainment system including a central device coupled to a plurality of electronics devices, wherein the plurality of electronics devices includes a display device and a descrambler, and wherein the central device manages the operation of the plurality of electronics devices, a method for tuning channels that are requested by a user for display on the display device, the method comprising the steps for:

receiving user input at the central device, wherein the user input selects a channel that corresponds to a signal carrying programming, and wherein the signal is received by the entertainment system;

using the electronic programming guide data stored at the central device to determine whether the signal is scrambled or non-scrambled, wherein both the scrambled and the non-scrambled signals have to be tuned before being displayed;

if the signal is determined from the electronic programming guide data to be scrambled, performing the steps for:

routing the scrambled signal from the central device to the descrambler;
and

using the descrambler to descramble and tune to one or more channels of the scrambled signal for display on the display device; and

if the signal is determined from the electronic programming guide to be non-scrambled, performing the step for:

using an internal tuner that is located at the central device to tune to one or more channels of the non-scrambled signal for display on the display device, and such that the non-scrambled signal can be displayed.

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2. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising, after descrambling and tuning the scrambled signal at the descrambler, performing the step for sending the descrambled and tuned signal from the descrambler to the central device.
3. (Original) A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the descrambler is a cable box.
4. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the user input is sent to the entertainment system by a remote control device.

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5. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for implementing in an entertainment system that includes a central device coupled to a plurality of electronics devices, wherein the central device manages the operation of the electronics devices, a computer program product for implementing a method for tuning signals carrying programming that correspond to channels selected by a user, the computer program product comprising:

a computer-readable medium carrying computer executable instructions for performing the method, wherein the method comprises steps for:

using the electronic programming guide data stored at the central device to determine whether the signal is scrambled or non-scrambled, wherein both the scrambled and the non-scrambled signals have to be tuned before being displayed;

if the signal is determined from the electronic programming guide data to be scrambled, performing the steps for:

routing the scrambled signal from the central device to the descrambler; and

using the descrambler to descramble and tune to one or more channels of the scrambled signal for display on the display device; and

if the signal is determined from the electronic programming guide to be non-scrambled, performing the step for:

using an internal tuner that is located at the central device to tune to one or more channels of the non-scrambled signal for display on the display device, and such that the non-scrambled signal can be displayed.

6. (Original) A computer program product as recited in claim 5, wherein the first signal is descrambled and tuned at the descrambling device.

7. (Original) A computer program product as recited in claim 6, wherein upon descrambling and tuning the first signal at the descrambling device, sending the descrambled first signal to the central device.

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8. (Currently Amended) A tuning system for use in an entertainment system that includes a plurality of consumer electronics devices coupled to a central device, wherein the central device manages the operation of the consumer electronics devices, and wherein all signals received by the entertainment system pass through the central device, the tuning system comprising:

a first tuner that is located at the central device, wherein the first tuner tunes signals to one or more channels carrying programming that is non-scrambled, wherein the non-scrambled signal must be tuned prior to being displayed;

a second tuner at a descrambling device, wherein the descrambling device is one of the plurality of consumer electronics devices coupled to the central device, wherein the central device routes the scrambled signal to the descrambling device, and wherein the second tuner tunes signals to one or more channels carrying programming that is scrambled; and

an electronic programming guide stored at the central device, wherein the electronic programming guide includes data specifying whether a signal carrying programming is scrambled or non-scrambled and wherein the tuning system uses the electronic programming guide to determine whether the signal carrying programming is scrambled or non-scrambled.

9. (Original) A tuning system as recited in claim 8, further comprising means for selecting a channel, wherein the channel corresponds to a signal carrying programming.

10. (Original) A tuning system as recited in claim 9, wherein the means for selecting a channel includes a remote control device.

11. (Previously Presented) A tuning system as recited in claim 9, wherein when the electronic programming guide data specify that a selected channel corresponds to a scrambled signal carrying programming, means for routing the scrambled signal to the descrambling device.

12. (Original) A tuning system as recited in claim 11, wherein the scrambled signal is descrambled by the descrambling device and tuned by the second tuner.

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13. (Original) A tuning system as recited in claim 12, wherein the descrambling device includes a cable box.

14. (Original) A tuning system as recited in claim 12, further comprising means for routing the descrambled and tuned signal from the descrambler to the central device.

15. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein receiving the signal by the entertainment system comprises receiving the signal at a single input of the central device, such that whether the signal is determined to be scrambled or non-scrambled, the signal is received at the single input of the central device.

16. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 5, wherein receiving the signal by the entertainment system comprises receiving the signal at a single input of the central device, such that whether the signal is determined to be scrambled or non-scrambled, the signal is received at the single input of the central device.

17. (Previously Presented) A tuning system as recited in claim 8, further including an input over which both the scrambled and non-scrambled signals are received.

18. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the routing is automatically performed upon determining from the electronic programming guide data that the signal is scrambled, and wherein the signal is automatically tuned by the internal tuner upon determining with the electronic programming guide that the signal is non-scrambled.

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19. (Currently Amended) A computer program product as recited in claim 4~~5~~, wherein the routing is automatically performed upon determining from the electronic programming guide data that the signal is scrambled, and wherein the signal is automatically tuned by the internal tuner upon determining with the electronic programming guide that the signal is non-scrambled.

20. (New) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the internal tuner of the central device is faster than a tuner of the descrambler that is used to tune the scrambled signals upon being descrambled.